



# Citation

*to accompany the award of the*

## Joint Meritorious Unit Award

*to*

### *Headquarters Joint Task Force Liberia*

Headquarters, Joint Task Force Liberia (JTF-L), distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 25 July 2003 to 15 October 2003. During this period, JTF-L played a central role in mitigating a grave humanitarian crisis in the country of Liberia by assisting Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) forces in their conduct of peace enforcement operations in the war-torn country. Specifically, JTF-L assessed and trained over 3,000 West African peace enforcers, identified and resolved mission-critical equipment shortfalls, and coordinated the air and sealift movements for ECOWAS' peace enforcement deployment to Liberia. The Task Force then played a critical role in securing the strategic infrastructure sites of the Free Port of Monrovia and Roberts International Airfield (RIA) by augmenting ECOWAS forces with a Quick Reaction Force at RIA, which then enabled ECOWAS forces to move to secure Free Port under the cover of JTF-L provided close air support. Joint Task Force Liberia then took steps to open both sites so that desperately needed humanitarian supplies could flow into Liberia. It achieved this by conducting a series of airfield, port, hydrographic and throughput capability assessments, which led to the approval of over 300,000 dollars worth of humanitarian aid projects that in turn enabled both sites to become operational. The direct actions of JTF-L enabled humanitarian aid agencies to distribute food and supplies to over 450,000 malnourished and displaced Liberians. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of the Joint Task Force Liberia have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert M. Myers", is positioned above the title of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff